

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 are pending. In the present amendment, Claim 2 is amended; and Claims 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 3, lines 27-28, and in Claim 3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claim 2 was indicated as including allowable subject matter; and Claim 3 was allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable and allowed subject matter.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which, after final rejection, permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends Claim 2 to include features *previously presented in Claim 3*. Therefore, this amendment only includes subject matter which was earlier presented. Thus, no new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claims 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is moot.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 2 is amended as suggested in the Office Action and recites “connecting the core with said outer

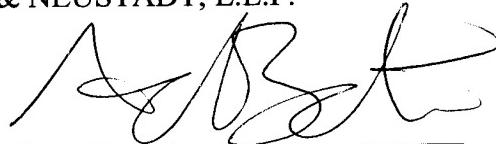
panel skins.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 2 corrects the informalities noted in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. In view of amended Claim 2, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on this basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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